

TO: Students, Staff and Parents:

The major purpose of our Community Service Program at Amesbury High School is to communicate to everyone that a well-rounded education is more than achievement in the core curriculum. It is a program that will involve various agencies providing opportunities for students, their peers, families, and staff to become participants in helping meet the needs of many people. Students will be able to meet and deal with people of all ages, of all capabilities, and of all interests who will teach them and enrich their lives.

Our overall objective for implementing mandatory community service as part of the graduation requirement centers around the development of character, self-esteem, and leadership qualities attained, not only through academic achievement, but also through a contribution to one's community. We believe that community service involves service to one's school community as well as one's local, national, and global communities.

**Questions about the program:**

**WHO must participate? EVERYONE. Ten (10) hours of Service is required per year. In addition, you must earn 35 hours during the four years of high school for a total of 75 hours required for graduation. Incoming freshman may start earning their community service after the close of the school year after they complete the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Summer community service hours must be turned in by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Seniors must turn in their hours to the Coordinator by May 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Underclassmen must turn in their hours 1 week before the end of the year. Community service hours will be accepted for that current year only.**

**WHAT can the participants do?** Perform public relations tasks; help with child care; work on art-related projects, participate in special events; tutor children or adults; improve the environment; organize and assist with recreation programs; visit the homebound, provide special skills and talents; guide visitors; assist the elderly; collect and distribute food, toys and specialties; register for internships, and numerous other possibilities.

Students who join or are members of the Band, Chorus, receive hours for their time served doing these activities that are beyond the requirements for the course credit.. Students who participate in Internships and Big Brother/Big Sister receive 35 hours for their first assignment only if they do not receive credit hours. You may NOT receive any compensation for community service- payment, gift, school credits. Fundraising to benefit an organization you are involved in will not count. The money raised must be donated to an outside charity that you do not benefit from to receive community service credit.

**WHEN should students do the service?** Students may do their community service on weekends, during school vacations, at night, during the summer, and after the school day.

**WHERE to volunteer?** Hospitals, soup kitchens, day care centers, shelters, special events, senior centers, schools, nursing homes, food banks, clinics, etc. When available, community service opportunities are posted on the bulletin board outside of the main office at the high school. Students are responsible for arranging their own community service.

**WHY volunteer?** Volunteering provides opportunities to build new skills, strengthens your resume, meet new people, enrich your life, promote goodwill, help others, and achieve personal growth and satisfaction.

**HOW are Community Service hours awarded:** All accountability will be handled by the **Community Service Coordinator**. The coordinator will have access to the record keeping and be responsible for approval of projects and awarding of community service hours. A total of Seventy-five (**75**) of Community Service are needed for high school graduation. Service hours must be done outside of a student's family.

**GRADING:** Each student must complete 10 hours of community service per year, starting with his or her freshman year. All hours must be completed by **May 15** of each school year. Documentation must be turned in and accounted for by the Community Service Coordinator by that date. A grade of **PASS/FAIL (P/F)** will be recorded on each student's report card. Failure to complete the required hours will be carried over to the next year's total. A student transferring into AHS will start his/her accumulation of hours at that point.

**FORMS:** The Community Service Forms can be found on the Bulletin Board outside of Room 135, across from the main office. Forms are also available on line. **STUDENTS** are responsible for completing and turning in the completed form.

**RESTRICTIONS:** (1) No Community Service may be done during school time without the written consent of the Community Service Coordinator. (2) Students may not count service for their family. (3) Students involved in fund raising must document the charity the funds are being donated to. Students may not benefit from the fundraising. (4) No credit will be given for service that resulted in the student receiving any form of compensation. (5) No senior will be allowed to leave school early during Senior Week if all hour obligations are not met.

Thank you,

Margaret Furlong

Community Service Advisor